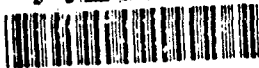


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ENTATION PAGE

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1. AGENCY USE ONLY (Leave blank)		2. REPORT DATE April 1985	3. REPORT TYPE AND DATES COVERED Final
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE A Cultural Resources Survey of the Hatchie River Channel Blockage in Alcorn and Tippah Counties, Mississippi, A Negative Finding Report			5. FUNDING NUMBERS 96X3112
6. AUTHOR(S) Jimmy McNeil			
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) In House			8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) Dept. of the Army Memphis District Corps of Engineers B-202 Clifford Davis Federal Bldg. Memphis, TN 38103			10. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY REPORT NUMBER 165
11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES			
12a. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Unlimited		12b. DISTRIBUTION CODE	
13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 words) An intensive cultural resources survey was conducted. A pedestrian survey failed to locate any prehistoric, historic, or architectural resources within the project right-of-way.			
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;"> <b>DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT A</b>            Approved for public release;            Distribution Unlimited         </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center; margin-top: 20px;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <b>93 4 05 018</b> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <b>410571 93-07030</b>  </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <b>11P8</b> </div> </div>			
14. SUBJECT TERMS			15. NUMBER OF PAGES 6
			16. PRICE CODE
17. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF REPORT	18. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE	19. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF ABSTRACT	20. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT

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A cultural Resources Survey of the Hatchie River Channel Blockage in Alcorn  
and Tippah Counties, Mississippi. A negative Finding Report.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Memphis, District

Jimmy McNeil  
Staff Archeologist

April 1985

### Abstract

On 11 March, 1985, an intensive cultural resources survey on the Hatchie River channel blockage right-of-way was conducted by the Environmental Branch of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Memphis District Staff Archeologist, Mr. Jimmy McNeil.

The project is located in Township 3S, range 5E, Section 3 center and NW-1/4; Township 2S, Range 5E, Section 33 8-1/2 and W-1/2, Section 32 NE-1/4 of the NE-1/4 of the Peoples, MS., and Township 2S, Range 5E, Section 29, SE-1/4 of the Chalybeata, MS-TN, 7.5 minutes quadrangle maps. The project is in Alcorn and Tippah Counties, Mississippi.

The proposed work includes removing the blockage and the deposited materials and placing these on the east streambank. With the exception of the actual area all work and material deposition will occur on existing fill materials.

A pedestrian survey of the blockage area right-of-way failed to locate any prehistoric, historic, or architectural sites within the project right-of-way.

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abstract	1
Table of Contents	11
Introduction	1
Project Description	1
Environmental Setting	2
Previous Research	2
Results of the Records Search	3
Survey Methodology and Results	3
Recommendations	3
References Cited	4
Map 1	General Views of the Project Area
Enclosure 1	Letter from Chief Archeologist

## INTRODUCTION

An intensive survey for cultural resources was conducted by Memphis District Staff Archeologist on 11 March, 1985, within the proposed project right-of-way of the Hatchie River blockage area as directed by The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District. This study was performed as required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1968 (Public Law 91-190), Protection and Enhancement of Cultural Historic and Cultural Properties (36 CFR 800), and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 898-665).

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project area is located in Alcorn and Tippah Counties, Mississippi, Township 3S, Range 5E, Section 3 Center and NW-1/4; Township 2S, Range 5E, Section 23 S-1/2 and W-1/2, Section 32 NE-1/4 of the NE-1/4 of the Peoples, MS. and Township 2S, Range 5E, Section 29 SE-1/4 of the Chalybrate, MS-TN., 7.5 minute quadrangle maps. A 1,000 feet (304.8 meters) blockage area must be removed, site deposits removed from the river and deposited on existing fill, and 4-6 acres (total) cleared of vegetation so the equipment can operate. With the exception of the actual 1,000 foot (304.8 meters) blockage area all equipment tracking, work, and material deposition will take place on existing fill materials. The attached map (Map 1) depicts the project location.

## ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

This area is located within the Humid Continental Climate zone, which is noted for its hot summers and mild winters. Average annual precipitation is 49.7 inches (126 centimeters) of which approximately 10% is snowfall (Commonwealth 1981).

Present vegetation includes willow, berch, cottonwoods, bamboo, oak, and various grasses and bushes.

The river flows through narrow to wide floodplains that are at the base of low hills. Much of the area is very low and swampy.

Fauna of the region includes deer, raccoon, opossum, squirrel and various birds and reptiles.

## PREVIOUS RESEARCH

The Memphis District Archeological Library and files contain no reports or records of any previous research having been completed in this area. A letter (Enclosure 1) from the State Archeologist, also, makes no reference to previous work having been conducted within the project area.

## RESULTS OF THE RECORDS SEARCH

A search of the Mississippi Records File was conducted. The records check indicated no recorded cultural resources. The National Register of Historic Places was also consulted and no sites were listed within the project area.

## SURVEY METHODOLOGY AND RESULTS

The survey conducted on 11 March, 1985, consisted of walking over (where possible) the right-of-way area. Most of the area was shallowly flooded, some areas were being cut by riverlits that were up to 0.5 meters deep. Visibility was exceedingly bad. Shovel cuts (approximately 30 X 30 X 30 cm) were randomly dug in the areas above water and in areas of very shallow flooding. The materials from the shovel cuts were trowel cut and looked (screening was impossible) as much as conditions allowed. No artifacts or human habitation indicators were found.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

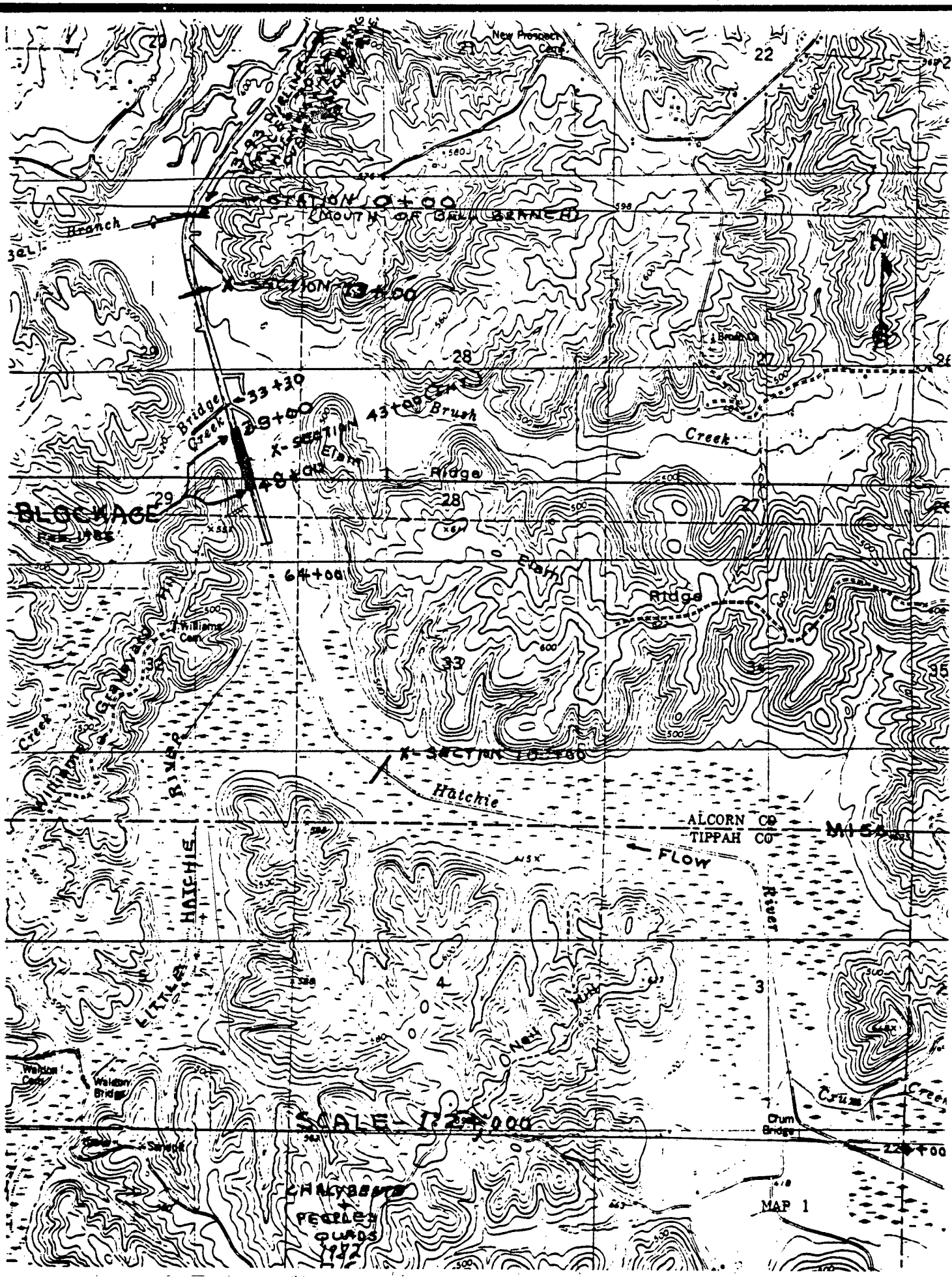
As no cultural remains or indicators were found within the blockage project area and all equipment tracing will be conducted on existing fill materials, it is recommended that construction be allowed to proceed as planned.



#### REFERENCES CITED

Commonwealth Associates, Inc.

- 1981 Study of Archeological, Architectural and Historical Resources within the Memphis Metropolitan Area; Tennessee, Arkansas, and Mississippi: Horn Lake Creek Area. Prepared for the Memphis U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District, Memphis, Tennessee.



SCALE 1:24,000

MAP 1

CHALYBEATE  
PEELER  
GUARD  
1942



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March 28, 1985

Mr. Sam R. Morgan, P.E.  
Chief, Planning Division  
Department of the Army  
Memphis District, Corps of Engineers  
B-314 Clifford Davis Federal Building  
Memphis, Tennessee 38103-1894

Dear Mr. Morgan:

I write in response to your letter of March 20 regarding the blockage in the Hatchie River in Alcorn and Tippah Counties, Mississippi. My records check indicates no recorded cultural resources.

Sincerely,

*Samuel O. McGahey*  
Samuel O. McGahey  
Chief Archaeologist  
Division of Historic Preservation

SOM/gj

Enclosure 1